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**Contact:**

Kyle Collins  
District Communications  
478.232.3331

*Laurens, Treutlen, Wilkes, Greene and Morgan...*

### **Georgia DOT replacing local bridges with innovative contracts**

TENNILLE – The Georgia Department of Transportation is using a new and innovative method to accelerate the replacement of 25 bridges throughout the state, five of them in east central Georgia.

Overall, the replacement bridges are valued at more than \$39.6 million and were included in statewide construction contracts awarded earlier this month. The method, known as bridge bundles, used five design-build contracts that each packages four to six bridge replacements geographically. This allows the contractor to efficiently streamline delivery by combining design and construction activities for the bridges in their bundled contract.

This concept is especially suitable in rural areas. The projects are low-impact with no widening or additional right-of-way and limited approach work.

East central Georgia counties that will benefit from \$7.5 million in bridge replacement projects are:

- **Laurens:** Jaybird Springs Road at Gum Swamp Creek Tributary, northeast of Chauncey; \$1.2 million;
- **Treutlen:** Union Camp Road at Red Bluff Creek, northwest of Soperton; \$1.45 million;
- **Wilkes:** Sandtown Road at Fishing Creek, northwest of Metasville; \$2.3 million;
- **Greene:** Copeland Road at Greenbriar Creek, southwest of Penfield; \$1.4 million;
- **Morgan:** Newborn Road at Little River, southwest of Rutledge; \$1.28 million

Georgia DOT's first obligation with funds resulting from HB-170— Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA)—is to maintain and improve existing infrastructure, which includes bridges. The TFA allows the Department to enhance the local transportation network through these projects.

“Design-build bridge bundles are an innovative and cost efficient way to repair and replace some of our aging local bridges,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry said. “The process expedites delivery, minimizes public inconvenience, maximizes industry participation and allows us to get the best overall product for the lowest price.”

An offsite detour will be allowed for up to 210 days per bridge, and the contractor has up to 1,095 days to complete all bridges in the bundled contract. This allows the new bridges to open to traffic as quickly as possible. Information on schedules, lane closures and detours will be made available in advance of construction activities.